reverse-repo rate, the fiscal measures of the Government and the initiatives to address supply side constraints aim to tackle inflation.

(c) Interest rates are market determined and depend on liquidity situation in the system.

Increase in prices of essential commodities

979. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of daily need items such as milk, sugar, wheat/flour, pulses, rice, vegetables, kerosene oil, LPG have climbed exorbitantly during the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and how much per cent the prices of these items increased during the last one year;

(c) the steps taken to control price rise; and

(d) the arrangements made to ensure that daily need items are not stored by hoarders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Year-on-year inflation measured in terms of Wholesale Price Index of selected essential commodities is indicated in the Table below:

Year-on-year inflation rates (%) of select commodities as on August 4, 2007

Month	Inflation*
Milk	8.63
Sugar	-18.17
Wheat	10.14
Atta	2.91
Pulses	3.33
Rice	6.74
Vegetables	27.10
Kerosene oil	0.00
LPG	0.00

* Provisional

(c) and (d) Containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the Government. Anti-inflationary policies of the Government include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, rationalization of excise and import duties of essential items so that there is no undue burden on the poor, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system.